

## **Goal: Integrated Management**

### *Requirements of the Act:*

- Set forth the commonwealth's goals, siting priorities and standards for ensuring effective stewardship of its ocean waters held in trust for the benefit of the public;
- adhere to sound management practices, taking into account the existing natural, social, cultural, historic and economic characteristics of the planning areas;
- coordinate uses that include international, federal, state and local jurisdictions;
- encourage public participation in decision-making

### *Strategies*

- Define goals, strategies and outcomes that are responsive to the Act, reflect consideration of public comment, and can be achieved within the Act's timeline based on existing information
- Review and incorporate as appropriate related/relevant Commonwealth law and policies, such as those related to climate change
- Characterize the planning area and its component regions through the baseline assessment and regional characterizations
- Review and consider the policies of regional, municipal, and other formal plans that address ocean waters
- Accommodate local and regional policies and initiatives that are consistent with the Act and the commonwealth's ocean management goals
- Develop criteria for selecting alternative management strategies/actions
- Identify measures of success or indicators that can be used to measure performance of management strategies in achieving desired outcomes
- Designate protection and use areas and develop integrated management measures in consideration of international, federal, state and local jurisdictions
- Coordinate designation of protection and use areas and measures with federal agencies
- Coordinate designation of protection and use areas in state waters with review of adjacent federal waters for areas with similar features/values
- Develop governance structure that maintains OAC and SAC functions and coordinates roles and responsibilities of state agencies in integrated ocean management, plan implementation, and advisory capacity to Secretary of EEA
- Maintain 'networked' governance structure for flexibility and responsiveness to implementation of Act

### *Outcome: Integrated ocean management plan that:*

- Is responsive to the Oceans Act
- Is implemented in coordination across jurisdictional levels
- Achieves balance through the designation of suitable use and protection areas

**Goal: Effective stewardship/protection of the marine ecosystem**

*Requirements of the Act:*

- value biodiversity and ecosystem health;
- respect the interdependence of ecosystems;
- identify and protect special, sensitive, or unique marine and estuarine life and habitats

*Strategies*

- Compile existing data to identify ecologically important areas
- Review Fisheries and Habitat workgroup reports
- Review certainty/uncertainty of existing data and available methodologies
- Develop Ecological Valuation Index (EVI)
- Develop compatibility/conflict matrix
- Map gradations of ecological value based on EVI
- Consider connectivity between/among areas of ecological value
- Overlay existing regulatory protected areas
- Define “special, sensitive, unique”
- Overlay data from other workgroups
- Apply conservative approach to area designated for management areas as proportion of overall planning area
- Map appropriate Special, Sensitive and Unique areas
- Develop/modify regulations to reflect protected status

*Outcome:* Special, sensitive, unique areas identified and protected:

- Based on the first generation of an ecosystem-based management approach

## **Goal: Effective stewardship/economic use of marine ecosystem**

### *Requirements of the Act:*

- preserve and protect the public trust;
- reflect the importance of the waters of the commonwealth to its citizens who derive livelihoods and recreational benefits from fishing;
- foster sustainable uses that capitalize on economic opportunity without significant detriment to the ecology or natural beauty of the ocean;
- support the infrastructure necessary to sustain the economy and quality of life for the citizens of the Commonwealth;
- identify appropriate locations and performance standards for activities, uses and facilities allowed in Ocean Sanctuaries;
- address climate change and sea level rise; preserve and enhance public access

### *Strategy*

- Map gradations of habitat value
- Overlay existing regulatory protected areas
- Overlay use data
- Apply compatibility matrix
- Identify potentially suitable use areas (for sustainable uses, infrastructure, renewable energy, and other uses allowed under the OSA)
- Apply conservative approach to total area designated as use areas as proportion of overall planning area, informed or modified by the following guidance for decision-making, explicit or inherent in the Act and/or illustrated through workgroup report data:
  - Minimize conflict with commercial fishing by siting development areas outside areas of significant fishing effort and value
    - Minimize conflict with significant interconnections between homeports and grounds
    - For specific projects developed pursuant to the ocean management plan, develop methodology to identify impacted fishery and assess economic impact of specific development projects (apply through MEPA)
    - For specific projects developed pursuant to the ocean management plan, develop framework for mitigation (apply through MEPA)
  - Minimize conflict with recreational fishing by siting incompatible uses outside areas of concentrated recreational fishing activity
- Preserve/enhance public access by siting use areas to minimize impacts to concentrations of recreational uses

- Consider impacts to significant interconnections between shore access points and destination areas
- Incorporate specific performance standard(s) for deepwater aquaculture criteria in development area
- Apply performance standard specifically for cables; evaluate management measures for other utilities based on compatibility matrix factors like significance/duration of impact, conflict with other uses.
- Identify appropriate test/pilot project areas for renewable energy development as part of use areas or performance standard overlay
- For renewable energy facilities, use and resource overlays provide basis for identifying “appropriate scale” and generally appropriate areas, for the following factors from the Act:
  - protection of the public trust
  - compatibility with existing uses
  - environmental protection
  - public safety
- Develop performance standards to address:
  - community benefit
  - proximity to the shoreline
  - appropriateness of technology and scale
- “Appropriate scale” incorporates consideration of appropriateness of scale necessary to be responsive to climate change and state renewable energy statutory requirements

*Outcome:* use areas identified and enforceable management measures promulgated such that

- Locations and performance measures for allowable uses and infrastructure are identified
- Renewable energy development is of appropriate scale
- Conflicts with/impacts to existing uses and resources are minimized
- Measures for reconciling use conflicts with fisheries are developed
- Permitting is streamlined

## **Goal: Adaptive Framework**

### *Requirement of the Act:*

- Encourage public participation in decision-making
- Adapt to evolving knowledge and understanding of the ocean environment

### *Strategies*

- Prioritize key management issues and related science needs for the next generation of the ocean management plan
- With the Science Advisory Council, develop a strategy for addressing prioritized ocean management issues that require additional scientific research and/or data collection
- Prioritize scientific research and data collection efforts of state agencies to reflect ocean management plan priorities
- To assist in implementing the science strategy, enlist the expertise and capacity of the University of Massachusetts, other colleges and universities, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other entities engaged in ocean-related scientific research
- Institute a process for future amendments to the ocean management plan that adequately responds to the pace of advances in science and technology, economics
- Ensure public participation as a key part of the ocean plan amendment process

### *Outcome: An adaptive framework that:*

- Establishes the ocean management plan as a key driver of future, ocean-related scientific research
- Provides basis for sound ocean policy, management, and science in the future
- Results in science and research in response to identified management and policy issues
- Continues to engage stakeholders in future iterations of the ocean management plan